



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 8

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OCT 23 2008

Ref: 8EPR-N

Walter C. Waidelich, Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
2520 West 4700 South
Suite 9A
Salt Lake City, UT 84118

John Njord, Executive Director
Utah Department of Transportation
4105 South 2700 West
Salt Lake City, UT 84119

Re: Comments on Layton Interchange Salt
Lake County, Final Environmental Impact
Statement (FEIS): CEQ#: 20080403

Dear Messrs: Waidelich and Njord:

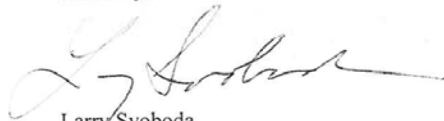
In accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) 42 U.S.C. Section 4231 et. seq., and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. Section 7609, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 8 (EPA) has reviewed the Layton Interchange Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). The proposed action is located in Layton City, Utah, adjacent to the I-15 corridor. The purpose of the project is threefold: 1) to address current and projected traffic demand and operations for the South Layton Interchange (I-15 Exit 330), 2) to provide unrestricted access across the Union Pacific Railroad to the developing area of west Layton, 3) to provide adequate transportation facilities and traffic capacity west of I-15 to relieve existing and projected traffic congestion by providing as near to level-of service D as possible or better on Gentile Street. Alternative 2 was selected as the preferred alternative because it fully met the purpose and need. Alternative 2 addresses the current and projected traffic demand and operations of the Layton Interchange by providing LOS D on Gentile Street and a grade-separated railroad crossing over the UPRR on the 750 South Connection. Additionally, the FEIS asserts that Alternative 2 has the fewest impacts on critical resources.

The Federal Highway Administration and Utah Department of Transportation have responded to all of the concerns EPA had with the Draft EIS. EPA is especially pleased with the inclusion of wetland impact analysis and the list of schools near the affected area that were

absent in the DEIS.

EPA appreciates the opportunity to review this project. If you have any questions or would like to discuss our comments, please contact me at (303) 312-6004 or Robin Coursen of my staff at (303) 312-6695.

Sincerely,



Larry Svoboda
Director, NEPA Program
Office of Ecosystems Protection and Remediation

Cc: Greg Punske, FHWA (email) and signed copy
Ed Woolford, FHWA (email)
Carlos Machado, FHWA
Jason Gipson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineer (email)

